

The Lawrence Myers House
Kingston, Luzerne County,
Pennsylvania.

H.A.B.S. No. Pa. 245.

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Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Pennsylvania.

Historic American Buildings Survey
Thomas H. Atherton, District Officer
139 South Main St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

THE LAWRENCE MYERS HOUSE
98 Main Street, Kingston.
Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Lawrence Myers was a dominant figure, not only in Kingston Township, but in the county of Luzerne. He was born in Germany in 1754 and in 1760 came with his parents to Frederick County, Maryland. He was a Lieutenant in the Revolutionary Army and first came to Wyoming Valley with the Sullivan Expedition. He was discharged from the Army in 1780.

On January 2nd, 1782. Lawrence Myers married Sarah, daughter of Captain Obadiah Gore, thereby becoming connected with one of the most influential families, Lieutenant Lawrence Myers was ever a favorite, his large, round face seemed radiant with benevolence and cheerfulness.

In 1787, Lawrence Myers purchased from Amos Draper, lot number 3, Third Division, and in 1790, lot number 4, formerly owned by Jonathan Dean, and thus became possessed of all the land on the westerly side of Wyoming Avenue, at what is now Kingston Corners. This rich plantation was called "Myers Delight" and in the old Draper house which he enlarged, he opened a store and tavern.

In 1788, the county laid a road, beginning at the house of Thomas Drake, and following the present Main Street to the house of Lawrence Myers; thence crossing the Main road (Wyoming Avenue) and continuing between the farm formerly owned by Asa Gore and Winchester Mathewson, to the bank of the east branch of Toby's Creek. This was parallel with the present Market Street, and began a little north of it, thence continuing, the road followed the high bank of Toby's Creek to Forty Fort. This made a four corners almost directly in front of Myers Tavern, which stood a little south of Kingston Corners.

The Voting Booths for the territory on the west side of the river, from opposite the Falling Springs above Coxton, to Hunklocks Creek, were held at Mr. Myers' from 1789 to 1806. The store was later conducted by Lawrence and Philip Myers, and a man named Carpenter. This partnership was dissolved February 13, 1798, and the store was continued by Lawrence Myers.

The enterprise of Mr. Myers attracted the business and political interests of the people from Forty Fort, who established Kingston Village, later the Borough of Kingston. In 1789, William Miller, had a cabinet shop near Myers Tavern, and was making spinning wheels there, which were in great demand in the settlement.

Lawrence Myers was Justice of the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County in 1790, and Justice of the Peace for many years; he also served as Major of the Local Militia. In the Fall of 1800 the Luzerne County Commissioners began the erection of the second Court House, (the first was built of logs) and Lawrence Myers, who was one of the Commissioners, planned it, following the design of the one at Frederick, Maryland, his former home.

Shortly after 1800, Lawrence Myers plotted his land along the Avenue, into nine house lots, and the community was for a number of years called "Myersburg".

Mr. Myers died at his home at Kingston Corners, November 26, 1810. He left no decendants, and his large estate was inherited by his brothers, Philip and Michael Myers.

Sarah Gore, born November 14, 1755, died May 20, 1841. The wife of Mr. Lawrence Myers, was of the patriotic families that sent five brothers and two brothers-in-law into the battle. She was devoted to her home, and very well liked in the community. She was a very good housekeeper and no doubt Mr. Myers left the estate to her and his two brothers, and not just to his two brothers as aforesated, as she lived thirty-one years after he had died.

The house which was built about 1800. is of frame construction, with superstructure of heavy timbers, all mortised and tenoned, being very well constructed, with all oak pins used throughout.

All the floor joist are heavy beams, and the flooring is of one inch boards, random widths. The front. rear and ends of the house is covered with siding, the roof with shingles, and the interior is plastered throughout.

The building is a very good example of the Colonial Architecture of that period; especially the front entrance door, which shows simplicity and refinement. All other doors and windows are in good harmony with the rest of the structure.

There is a plain but interesting stairway in the hall just inside the main entrance door, and on either side of the hall, there is a large room, also two large rooms on the second floor.

The large fireplace that is in the room on the first floor, which originally was the kitchen, has been boarded up, and the fireplace in the bed room above this room is still open, but not in use.

His torical information obtained from the following:

" History of Certified Township of Kingston, Pa.,
by William Brewster.

" Kulp's Families of Wyoming Valley ".

Author. *Ackerman*.....
Approved. *Thomas H. Atkinson*.....
Date. *June 25, 1940-*.....

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